

August 19, 2002

**Public Notice for Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification and California
Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification**

**Wallan & Johnson Gravel Mining Operations
South Fork Eel River & Bear Creek
Humboldt County**

On August 5, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Wallan & Johnson requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification for Wallan & Johnson Gravel Mining Operations on the South Fork Eel River and Bear Creek, Humboldt County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the United States associated the gravel mining operations.

The proposed project sites are located on the South Fork Eel River (River Mile 34) and Bear Creek (APN 223-171-11), Eel River Hydrologic Unit No. 111.00, Humboldt County. Gravel mining operations have occurred on these sites since 1947, and the applicant proposes to continue these operations.

The project area is approximately 13 acres, but only a maximum of five acres of the site will be temporarily affected. Gravel is skimmed from the bars using a front-end loader, and dump trucks transport the gravel from the bars. Aggregate processing does not take place on-site, and materials are stored off-site or sold to other local gravel operators with processing facilities. Up to 200 cubic yards of aggregate materials may be temporarily stored on the gravel bar for subsequent loading. Starting on October 1, gravel stockpiled on river bars is removed on a daily basis, and extraction sites are groomed and graded at the end of each working day. A maximum of 10,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel will be extracted each year.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3830-3869. Comments on this project should be submitted to Miguel Villicana at villm@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov, within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

(KLJ-Wallan\Johnson2)